

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE****EFFICIENT PROCESS FOR HANDOVER BETWEEN SUBNET MANAGERS**

[0076] A method and system for efficiently merging subnets having individual subnet managers (SM) into a single network with one master SM ~~subnet manager is disclosed~~. During discovery and configuration of a subnet, a subnet manager creates a Subnet Management Database (SMDB) representative of the subnet components being managed. Each subnet manager contains an independent SMDB. When two or more subnets are merged (i.e., linked/connected together[[]]) to form a single network, a single one of the subnet managers is selected as the master subnet manager and all the subnets' SMDBs must be merged. ~~The other subnet managers are relegated to standby status. In a preferred embodiment, a~~ An SMDB record labeling mechanism is utilized to differentiate among components from the different subnets that may have the same parameter values, such as protection keys (P\_keys) and re-assign individual parameters to create a single SMDB of uniquely defined components.

~~[0077] In one embodiment of the invention, when there are two or more separate SMDBs, each maintained by separate master subnet managers on a separate subnet, means are provided for efficient merging of the SMDBs, such that the separate subnets become a single subnet, with a single master subnet manager and with a single SMDB.~~